

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Club of Cultural and Scientific Workers of the People's Republic of Slovenia (Klub Kulturnih in Znanstvenih Delavcev Ljudske Republike Slovenije) was founded immediately following World War II with the aim of organizing all Slovene cultural and scientific workers into a kind of trade union and to give economic assistance, such as extra ration cards, food and clothing articles, to its members. The Club is generally referred to by the abbreviated form of "Cultural Club" and maintains quarters on the third floor of 1 Wolfova Ulica, Ljubljana, i.e., in the former Majer Store Building. 25X1
2. The procedure for joining the Club is as follows: (a) The prospective member must submit an application showing evidence of his cultural or scientific activity; (b) Two members must sponsor the applicant; and (c) The Club Committee decides on the applicant's admission. No Party membership and no candidacy period are required. The following persons are admitted to the Club's premises: (a) members; (b) guests of members if they belong to the same professional category; and (c) important government personalities like ministers, etc.
3. The Club is ruled by an Executive Committee which is elected on the basis of proposed lists. Although there is no Party organization in the Club, the candidate list is usually covertly proposed by the Party. Only about 50 per cent of the members usually take part in the elections. The current president of the Club is Ivan Potrc, a writer. Other members of the Executive Committee include: Bratko Kreft, program director of the Ljubljana Drama Theater; Fran Albrecht, a poet; Jus Kozak, manager of the Slovenian National Theater; and Boris Kalin, a sculptor.
4. The Club has a restaurant and a bar. Sonja Kraigher, nee Kos, is the manager of the Club premises. The Club is open daily from 0800 to 1300 hours and from 2000 to 0200 hours. The service stops at 0200 hours, but parties can remain longer. The Club used to be open the entire day; during the past years, however, interest in the Club's activities has diminished considerably and the operating hours have been reduced. At present the visitors of the Club belong mainly to the following categories: actors, writers, painters, and sculptors. Most of 25X1

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the scientists, although members on paper, stay away from the Club because they are not interested in bohemian-style parties and drinking, which have been the main activity in the Club during the last few years.

5. The Club has no library of its own, but it has a reading room where the following magazines are available in addition to Slovenian magazines and newspapers:

- a. German - almost all German magazines are available
- b. Austrian - almost all Austrian magazines are available
- c. American - Life, Time, and Look
- d. French - Paris Match
- e. Italian - Oggi, Europeo

The aforementioned magazines are not available on the market in Slovenia. No Russian and no Satellite magazines are available in the reading room. The Club has no magazine library. The old issues of magazines are usually taken home by Club members, who pass them on to their friends, and thus they circulate around Ljubljana.

6. Membership dues amount to a certain percentage of the monthly salary, e.g., a person making 12,000 dinars monthly pays 80 dinars monthly dues. The percentage is not the same for all salaries but higher in the case of high salaries and lower in the case of low salaries. During the first post-war years members participated regularly in the Club's activities, but when the economic privileges (extra ration cards, etc.) were taken away in 1949-1950 the membership dwindled and Club activities decreased. Presently the Club organizes a lecture of political or cultural nature once or twice every month and a ball on the first of March of every year. Very few members attend the lectures, but the ball is considered to be one of the important social affairs of the season, with members of the Slovenian Government regularly participating. It represents the only real yearly reunion of Club members.
7. Usually only a few people are seen in the Club in the morning, reading magazines and studying. At night the Club premises are mostly used by actors, artists, and writers for drinking parties because the restaurants and taverns in Ljubljana close at 2400 and at 0100 hours. Josip Vidmar, President of the Slovenian Academy of Arts and Sciences, is a sort of "grey eminence" of the Club. He sits there almost every day between 1200 and 1300 hours "taking care of cultural matters and deciding what is right and wrong in Slovenian culture."¹ The Club as such does not exercise any political influence. Its recommendations for the publication of literary works, however, are usually followed, and it exercises a limited influence in the fields of art and music. It has no influence on films or on theater.

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